

Cultivate Reflection Guide

ELECTION

Week of November 15, 2020 – How to Bring REAL Political Change

If you missed this weekend's messages, watch at cultivate.sc/discussion

When the political stakes are high, it's hard to know who to follow and what to believe. Join us as we reflect, respond and pray through our "Election" series and together see politics through the eyes of God. Whether in community or through personal reflection, answer **one or more** of the following questions to live out what we're learning on the weekends. Remember...it's not about getting through the content, but getting the content through YOU!

1. Rotten Fruit: It doesn't take a lot of rotten fruit to spoil the whole bunch. As Pastor Matt continues through Joshua 7, he challenged us to remember that it took one man, Achan, to bring chaos and destruction to the Israelites. If we're not wise about BOTH what we cultivate INTO our lives and what we cut OUT, we too risk spoiling.

"But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy *that overflows*, peace *that subdues*, patience *that endures*, kindness *in action*, a life full of virtue, faith *that prevails*, gentleness *of heart*, and strength *of spirit*." Galatians 5:22-23 TPT

- As you reflect on the verse above, which fruit of the Spirit do you need to cultivate into your life? What do you need to cut out of your life to accomplish that?
- Be specific – "I want to cultivate _____ into my life, so I need to stop _____."
- Ask God to give you the courage to cultivate this fruit and then, hold yourself accountable to pursue it with consistency and purpose.

2. Money Trouble: Money is necessary to live, but it's when we lose proper perspective of it's worth in our lives, that the trouble begins.

"Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content. But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:6-10

- How have you experienced the love of money being a distraction from faith and trusting God?
- What does Paul say makes us truly wealthy?
- How do you need to cultivate contentment into your life SO THAT you avoid the trappings of temptation?

{ **Dig Deeper:** Keep reading Paul's counsel in 1 Timothy 6:11-21 on trusting God, not money, to meet our needs.

3. The Whole Truth: God won't hold us accountable for the political plays of this day, but He will hold us accountable for what is happening in our heart and home. Nothing is hidden from God and until we start living like that, we risk losing His blessing on our lives. Too much is at stake to not trust God with the whole truth.

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable...So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most." Hebrews 4:13, 16 NLT

- **Be REAL with self.** Is there anything hiding in your tent? Don't assume this is something as bold as theft or lies. This could be an attitude, belief or habit. It could be a self-indulgence or relational conflict. Invite God to search your heart and show you anything you're hiding or holding onto that is robbing you of His blessings.
- Repentance isn't anger, justification, fear or denial – it is change. God is faithful to cleanse us when we have the courage to confess. **Be REAL with God** and tell Him the whole truth. You are safe in His hands.
- God gives grace and mercy to cover our sins, but sometimes our choices result in real consequences, either for us or those around us. If that's the case, **be REAL with others** and do your best to make things right.

{ **Cultivate Community:** REAL change begins with you, but you're not alone. Confide in your community or someone you trust and share the truth you've faced and the change you're seeking. Ask them to support and encourage you as you pursue accountability with self, God and others. If you need community or prayer, you can take next steps at sandalschurch.com/next/.